



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

Brian C. Bosma
Speaker of the House

Website: www.in.gov/h88
E-mail: H88@in.gov
Phone: (317) 232-9657

June 14, 2018

Robert Rudolph, Esq.
Office of Legislative Ethics
Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Vigo County Capital Improvements Board

Dear Mr. Rudolph:

The purpose of this letter is to provide for the records of the Office of Legislative Ethics and the House Committee on Legislative Ethics the circumstances pertaining to the potential engagement of Kroger Gardis & Regas, LLP, where I am a partner, by the Vigo County Capital Improvements Board of Managers (the "CIB"). While I feel confident that there is no direct conflict of interest presented by our potential engagement, because the legislature recently considered and passed House Enrolled Act 1242 (ss), which authorized a Vigo County Food and Beverage Tax, and if enacted, the proceeds thereof will likely be allocated to efforts of the Capital Improvement Board, I felt it appropriate to notify your office of the surrounding circumstances.

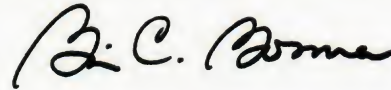
Within the past two weeks, I was contacted by phone by Mr. Greg Gibson, who I have known for a number of years, and is an appointee to the CIB. Mr. Gibson indicated that the CIB was searching for a new firm to represent them as their Convention Center project was beginning to proceed, and after reviewing the credentials and experience of our firm and a number of other Indianapolis area law firms, he indicated that the CIB would be interested in engaging our firm to serve as their general counsel. As you may be aware, I lead our firm's Municipal Finance and Economic Development Practice Group and have actively advised local units of government, quasi-governmental entities and private developers on economic development projects and construction transactions throughout the state for nearly 30 years. Representatives of our firm are making a presentation to the CIB on June 20, 2018 about our firm's qualifications and we anticipate that we will be engaged at or shortly after that time. This engagement will involve several members of our firm, but in my role as Chairman of the Practice Group I will be actively participating in the project if we are selected.

I am mindful of my position as both a legislator and current Speaker of the Indiana House, and that my firm's engagement by a local entity that recently received authorization to implement a food and beverage tax may meet with some concern or criticism. I wanted to document for your records and mine that I had no direct involvement in advocating for the Vigo County Food and Beverage Tax, although I did cast a vote in favor of HEA 1242 (ss), and also voted for Senate Bill 242 during the regular session which contained similar authorizing language. At the time I cast those votes, and up until just two weeks ago, I had no idea that our firm could potentially be involved in advising the CIB or have involvement in any way with the convention center project. I was first approached about this possible engagement long after the bill was signed into law by Governor Holcomb.

If you or members of the House Ethics Committee have concerns about our firm's participation, please be sure to contact me so that they can be resolved. I appreciate your work on behalf of the General Assembly in the Office of Legislative Ethics and wanted to be as transparent as possible with this matter before we are actively engaged. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

Very truly yours,

KROGER GARDIS & REGAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.C. Bosma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Brian C. Bosma, Partner

BCB:akk

cc: The Honorable Greg Steuerwald, Chairman, House Ethics Committee
The Honorable Clyde Kersey, Ranking Member, House Ethics Committee